

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 795

By Baird

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Gregory Hicks,
United States Army, of Campbell County,
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Sergeant 1st Class Gregory Hicks of the First Calvary Division, United States Army, made the ultimate sacrifice of his life on January 8, 2004, in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Hicks was in the process of being transported back to the U.S. after sustaining injuries in the line of duty, when the U.S. Army helicopter on which he was a passenger crashed in Fallujah; the death of this brave soldier is mourned by a grateful nation, fellow soldiers stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, the community of Cotula, and his friends and family; and

WHEREAS, a native of Duff, Tennessee, Sgt. Hicks enlisted in the U.S. Army in June of 1986 after graduating from Wynn High School in May; he proudly served his country in the Persian Gulf War and was deployed to Iraq in October of this past year; Sgt. Hicks had been serving as the Platoon Sergeant with Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Calvary Regiment in Habbaniyah, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, this superlative individual received numerous awards, including the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the

National Defense Service Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Kuwait Liberation Medal for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Professional Development Ribbon with three Awards, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with second Award, the Combat Infantryman Badge , and the Expert Infantryman Badge; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Cotula community of Campbell County, Sgt. Hicks was deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be dearly missed by his surviving family members and friends, including his wife, Melinda, children, Jennifer and Christopher, his father and mother, Clayton and Flora Hicks, his brother, Stephen Hicks, and his sisters, Sandra Parker and Minnie Baird; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in military life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional soldier and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of United States Army Sergeant 1st Class Gregory Hicks, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and dedication to this great nation and his stalwart commitment to the U.S. Army and democracy around the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Sgt. Hicks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy